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AUGUST 1980

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I have been asked to reply to your letter to Secretary Muskie of July 31 concerning your interest in the Raoul Wallenberg case.

Following discussions on this subject in Vienna in June 1979, the Department raised this matter with the Soviet Embassy twice more -- in July and in October, 1979 -- seeking further clarification of Wallenberg's fate. We pressed the Soviets again in December for a full and adequate response. Regrettably, the Soviets did not respond until February 29 when they formally reaffirmed in writing their claim that Wallenberg died in the USSR during July, 1947. The Soviets also said that they had informed the Swedish Government directly of their latest findings and suggested that they would have no further information on this matter in the future.

Given the current depressed state of our relations with the Soviet Union and the tone of the February 29 reply, I do not believe that the Soviets would be responsive to further inquiries now about Raoul Wallenberg. We share your regard for the contribution made by Raoul Wallenberg and have written to Senator Church to support S.Con.Res. 110 insofar as it honors Wallenberg. Indeed, we consider it appropriate to remember in this way someone who did so much for others during World War II.

Incidentally, you may be interested to know that extensive interviews were conducted with the five prominent Soviet dissidents exchanged for two Soviet spies in New York City on April 27, 1979, on the possibility that Wallenberg was still alive in Soviet prison camps. None of the five ex-prisoners could confirm or lend credence to such rumors.

Sincerely,

C-W

Walter L. Cutler
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

The Honorable
    Ted Weiss,
        House of Representatives.

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